

## Chemistry 001:

Introducing the Periodic Kingdom to its Heirs began as the text for Mary Daly's chemistry course in which we intended to introduce just the first 8 or 10 elements. We would associate each with an image that would bring to mind a common use, an intriguing fact, or a striking circumstance of discovery. The students took such unexpected delight in learning the elements, however, that we went on to the first 95. We had, in the front of our classroom, a large plaid fabric with corner-cuts for mounting each card. It was very exciting to place all the element cards we had done, week by week, by way of review, and watch the chart grow.

The result is a book that introduces all the commonly known the elements of the periodic table, one by one. At the beginning of each period, the concept of electron energy levels or "shells" is considered, along with a few other concepts relevant to introductory chemistry.

The material is suitable for the middle-school child, or even younger in some cases, and is a very attractive and engaging vehicle for learning the names of the elements. All of the original students memorized substantial portions of the Periodic Table and were grateful when they took chemistry in high school. High school students of chemistry have also enjoyed this friendly presentation of the periodic table which they must master, the sooner, the better. Chemistry 001 is not a complete chemistry course for the serious high school student, however.

The incomparable volume, The Periodic Kingdom by P.W. Atkins, inspired the concept of considering the table as a kingdom. I highly recommend his works on chemistry.